GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:226
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
CHILDREN AFFECTED FROM AUTISM
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children in the country are suffering from autism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to provide proper treatment to such children in the Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d): Data on the persons with Autism in the country is not maintained. However, number of organizations working in the developmental disabilities area are finding number of new cases every day of children with Autism. The National Trust Act, 1999 is particularly meant for the welfare of persons with Autism and other conditions. Under the Act, a host of activities are undertaken like caregivers courses, training and public awareness programmes etc. Early diagnosis and intervention leads to limitation of disability. Paediatric &Psychiatry departments of Government hospitals provide such services. Government of India has taken various steps to improve Psychiatry departments of Govt. Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and State-run Mental Health Institutes under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP). District Mental Health Programme under NMHP also provides for proper intervention of mental disorders including Autism.